Act, 1954, for making suitable amendments therein to make salary, allowances etc. of Members of Parliament realistic as an assurance was given in Rajya Sabha on the 25th August, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof, the terms of reference and time given to submit the report to Government; and

(c) if the committee has not so far been constituted, the reasons for delay and by when it is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (c) The matter relating to revision of salary, allowances and pension of Members of Parliament is under consideration of the Government.

Government funds for contesting elections

†832. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed to provide thirty five lakh rupees from Government exchequer to contestants for contesting election in each Lok Sabha constituency;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Central Government has, however, considered the various recommendations/proposal relating to State funding of election received by it. With a view to building consensus among the recognized political parties, it has decided to request the Election Commission of India for its consideration certain recommendations. Accordingly, on the

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

2nd January, 2006, the Government requested the Election Commission of India to recommend, in consultation with the recognized political parties, the quantities of the items like rent-free accommodation, rent-free telephone with STD facility, time to be distributed on private cable television network and electronic media to be provided for political parties, and for the contesting candidates, petrol/diesel, paper for printing, postal stamps, loudspeakers, telephone etc. taking into consideration the geographical features and means of communication available.

The scheme of distribution of the above-mentioned items would be worked out after receipt of the recommendations of the Election Commission.

Scheme for development of SSIs in Pubjab

833. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing any scheme in the State of Punjab for development of Small Scale Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the above schemes?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The development and promotion of Small Scale industries (SSIs) is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Governments/Union Territory (UT) Administrations. The Central Government supports and supplements the efforts of the State Governments/UT Administrations through various schemes/ programmes relating to credit, infrastructural development, technology upgradation, marketing, entrepreneurial development, etc. These are implemented across the country, including the State of Punjab. The status of the major schemes in the State of Punjab is given in the enclosed statement.